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All-Star Batman & Robin

Batman's All Star Summer

2005 will go down in history as a banner year for the Dark Knight. His return to the big screen in ***Batman Begins*** has revitalized the franchise that Joel Schumacher single-handedly sidetracked several years ago. The return of his formerly-dead sidekick in the pages of ***Batman*** has made readers acutely aware that there are still plenty of surprises left in the Bat-books.

But the biggest comic book event of all is forthcoming in just a few short weeks.

All Star Batman & Robin, the Boy Wonder, the new series written by *Frank Miller* and illustrated by *Jim Lee & Scott Williams*, is slated to debut in mid-July—and it's pretty safe to say that it'll be the biggest debut of the year.

Frank Miller told ***CSN*** what the focus of the first story arc would be. "This is Dick Grayson's initiation and he's dealing with a very stern teacher," Miller explained. "Batman is a hard teacher—unforgiving. Brutal. At the same time, Grayson is watching Batman come into his full power. Me and *Jim Lee* get to play with all of DC's toys. It'll be a romp. It'll be a lot of fun. I plan on raiding DC's treasury of characters. There won't be a Black Canary or a Wonder Woman unused."

Jim Lee has been quite up-front about his enthusiasm for this project. On his blog, Lee wrote, "To say this is my ultimate, dream project would be an incredible understatement. Back when I was in college from 1982 to 1986, I grew bored and disenchanted with comics, barely perusing my subscriptions when I went home for various holiday breaks. *Frank Miller* changed all that in 1986 when ***The Dark Knight Returns*** blew my mind and lit up my retinas.I haven't been the same since.

"My passion for creating comics comes from this one book, and I've embarrassed Frank countless times by repeating this exact same story to him. Being fortunate enough to have as passionate fans, I know how it feels to be told similar tales, so I hold back and try and act normal around him now so I don't freak him out..."

Now well into the first issue, Lee talked with ***CSN*** about what he's doing differently here than he did on his ***Batman: Hush*** arc with *Jeph Loeb*. "More subtly, with the pencils, I am trying to draw more spontaneously, using a lead stick holder rather than a mechanical pencil. It gives me bolder, rougher lines. Storytelling-wise, I am trying to be as direct as possible. This is a tough one to explain, but in the end, I am going to shoot for the shot that gets the information across in the most direct way. It doesn't mean that I won't sort of do my trademark type shots—big establishing shots, complicated backgrounds etc—but there will be more simple, straightforward panels as well. I am definitely taking my lead from Frank's scripts. The scripts are *fantastic*—you get an image right away and I try to get that first shot onto paper as best as possible."

Lee has put some time into developing a different version of the younger Batman who's the star of this new series. "The most obvious cosmetic changes are in how Batman's look. He is younger than he was in ***Hush***, so in the end, we went with a slimmer build. Originally, I drew he a bit blockier but he looked too old, too mature. He is supposed to be twenty-five-ish, so his legs will be slimmer, more agile looking.

"Also went with an old-school blocky bat symbol rather than the more modern one he sported in ***Hush***. Also played around more with his cape and the number of folds in it. Since Robin is an integral part of the book and has the bright colorful costume, colorist *Alex Sinclair* and I decided to go with grays and blacks on Batman—again a departure from ***Hush***. The world will be darker, which again sets up the contrast with the lighter, brighter Robin."

In ***Hush***, Lee and *Jeph Loeb* threw in pretty much every major element in the Batverse; are he and Frank going for something that far-reaching here, or is this storyline more focused? "I know Frank has a single story about Robin and his origin more or less set up, but within that story, you will see a lot of the secondary characters from both the Bat-Universe as well as the DC Universe in general. Before we started the project, we sat down and just talked comics and shared our enthusiasm for so many of the characters from the DCU you haven't seen in a ***Batman*** comic for ages. Which ones make the final cut and show up in ***All Star Batman and Robin*** is both a secret and a surprise."

Lee put in a great deal of time researching the history of the Dark Knight as he prepared for this book—and that research continues to this day. "Of course, both Frank and I are drawing upon the rich and varied history of the character. He pointed me in the direction of *Dick Sprang* and the ***Batman*** comics from that era. Thank God for the ***DC Archives***! Since I have been traveling a lot, I usually take one of those hardcovers with me and try to take in as much as possible."

What period of ***Batman*** history most appeals to Jim Lee the reader and fan? "Well, I remember just being entranced with the old classics from the 40's, 50's and 60's. Decades ago—back more than twenty-two years ago—I remember checking out a thick collected volume of Batman stories. Most were in black and white, but there were also stories in color. I don't know who published it or what the name was, but I would sit for days just poring through the book.

"As far as story arcs go, my short list probably overlaps nearly 90% of what most fans feel are the best ***Batman stories***. ***The Dark Knight Returns*** would be my ultimate Batman story followed closely by ***Batman: Year One***. Then would come the Batman run by *Steve Englehart & Marshall Rogers*. I never had the money or a store nearby as a kid to get all those great *Denny O'Neil/Neal Adams* ***Batman*** comics but those also rank up there as being the best of the best. If I had to pick an offbeat one, I really dug this one short story by *Archie Goodwin & Walt Simonson*; it was a backup in ***Detective***, I think, and showcased the character Manhunter more than Batman, but that was a fantastic story with just dazzling artwork and storytelling. Of course, you can never go wrong with Goodwin and Simonson! Hopefully we can serve it up just as well."

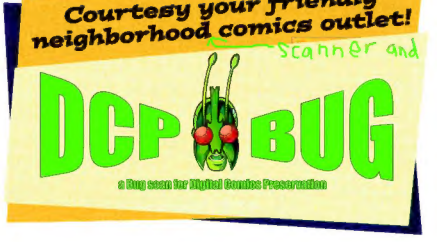
While ***All Star Batman and Robin*** isn't tied into DC continuity as such, readers won't find an unfamiliar world awaiting them in the pages of this book. "The characters in this run are going to be the classic ones we all know and remember so they are very much rooted in the mainstream DCU—yet at the same time, we have more than enough surprises up our sleeves. It's coming off as a nice blend of old and new so far."

Lee describes ***All Star: Batman and Robin*** as "a fresh start to the classic mythos; civilians and casual readers will dig it immediately and long time fans will love the new nuggets and gems Frank unearths as he takes on the Dark Knight once more. It's the Batman we all know and love, seen with a contemporary point of view... It might be best to look at it as 'Batman: Year Two' in the Millerverse of Batman. I assume it will feed off what Frank set up with 'Year One' years ago and set up themes which will resonate with those seen in ***Dark Knight Returns*** and ***Dark Knight Strikes Again***. It's a fresh examination of the complex relationship between Batman and Robin, Wayne and Grayson."

Lee sees the new series as being "aimed squarely at casual readers. Browsers who have never read a ***Batman*** comic but are familiar with the character from other media should be able to pick up ***All Star: Batman and Robin*** and get 'it' right from the start. We have a big opportunity this year with the behemoth that is ***Batman Begins*** launching in June, and all the mainstream press and attention comics have been enjoying of late. The ***All-Star*** line should be ready to capitalize on the eventual interest. Frank also promises some very visceral, in-your-face storytelling and action with several twists and turns to the classic Batman and Robin mythology so I think long time fans will be pleasantly rewarded as well."

All Star Batman & Robin the Boy Wonder #1, a $2.99 comic, is scheduled for July 13th release; the book will ship with two covers—one featuring Batman and one featuring Robin—in equal quantities. Subsequent issues of the series follow approximately every six weeks.

by Cliff Biggers



Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Disney's Slave Labor Force

For several years now, Disney's best-known classic animation characters have appeared in a line of comics published by Gemstone—but some of Disney's newer franchises are on their way to comics later this year... from a publisher that no one ever foresaw as a home to Disney-related comics.

Slave Labor Graphics, best known for such cutting-edge books as ***Johnny the Homicidal Maniac***, ***Lenore***, and ***Milk and Cheese***, has landed the rights to four new Disney-based comics: ***Haunted Mansion***, ***Wonderland***, ***Tron***, and ***Gargoyles***. While this isn't Slave Labor's first venture into licensed properties, it is the first time that they have entered into a partnership with such a mainstream company. And while Owner, President, and Publisher *Dan Vado* acknowledges that the pairing between SLG and Disney may come as a sudden surprise to most, the deal has actually been percolating for well over a year.

"Disney originally came to me about something else that, ultimately, we couldn't get done, but I maintained a cordial relationship with the people who contacted us," Vado told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "A little over a year ago, I made an offhand remark to someone about how I would like to do a story about Wonderland after Alice left—to try and tread upon some new ground within Disney's version of the world. They were intrigued by the idea, so I wrote up a proposal, not really knowing where it was going to go, for a line of comics that would be along those lines – using their brand, but doing things a little differently, and aiming for a slightly older audience than Disney is most associated with. They were interested in seeing if they could move their brand over to the teen market, which we seem to have penetrated reasonably well."

The teen market is one with strong appeal for Disney; the company's many franchises have tremendous success among young children, but they have done much less well with the teen market. The popularity of the various brands pick up again with adults, due in part to nostalgia, as well as parents introducing their children to the various Disney brands and properties.

Initially, Vado wrote a pitch for three series—***Haunted Mansion***, ***Wonderland***, and ***Tron***—but Disney suggested that they also take a look at ***Gargoyles***, as *Greg Weisman*, creator of the animated series had expressed an interest to Disney in continuing the storylines he'd begun, and the blossoming SLG deal seemed to be the perfect fit.

Despite the seemingly odd fit of SLG and Disney, Vado said that he had creators ready to go as soon he began looking. "In each of these cases, I had people who we were publishing who were highly motivated to do stories about each of those things," Vado said. "*Landry Walker*, who writes ***Little Gloomy***, is a *huge* ***Tron*** fan. He's had an idea about writing ***Tron*** for a long time. *Tommy Kovac*, who does *Autumn* for us is a big ***Alice in Wonderland*** fan, so he was ready to go, and I had a plan for ***Haunted Mansion***. So we were set with creators who were ready to go and follow through in the vision that I'd proposed for the comics.

"I think that people will see that ***Haunted Mansion***, ***Wonderland***, and ***Gargoyles*** fit pretty well with us and what we do, with ***Tron*** being a slight exception. But when they see the finished product, they'll see why it makes sense for us."

Vado outlined the approach the Slave Labor will take with each of the four titles, beginning with the October-release ***Haunted Mansion***. "This will be based on the theme park ride, not on the movie. The ride itself is one of the few 'E-ticket' attractions that do not have an official story. When Walt Disney was conceptualizing it, his view was essentially, 'This is a haunted house. The rider is a person trapped in a haunted house. That's the only story you need.' There are elements of a story in it, and hinted at over the years, but only the one at EuroDisney [Phantom Manor] has a story.

"What I've done is researched the ride – a lot of which was riding the ride many hundreds of times over the course of my life – and there is a story there. In essence though, ***Haunted Mansion*** is going to be an anthology in the spirit of the ride. There are 999 ghosts in the mansion, so that produces the potential for at least 999 stories – where did these ghosts come from? How did they die? What are they doing in the Mansion?

"We'll also tell the backstory of the Mansion itself in a thread which will run through the main stories. I consider the most central characters of the larger story to be the 'Ghost Host' – the guy hanging in the rafters, Madame Leota – the medium who appears in the crystal ball in the attic, and the Bride, who's in the attic. They're central to the story."

Gargoyles, debuting in December or January, "will be tied to the animated series, and will be written by *Greg Weisman*, who created the animated series that aired originally, as a Touchstone animated series in the mid '90s. Greg will be continuing the storyline set within the animated series. Of course, the property as a whole was helped along by the ***Season 1 DVD*** doing very well for Disney. We're hoping to continue that wave of popularity."

Wonderland, debuting in the spring of 2006, "is set after Alice leaves at the end of the animated film. We're going to be playing with the look that was established by Disney for Wonderland in the film, and we'll be playing, largely, with the same characters from the film, which are essentially the same characters from the novels, but we're sticking with the same feel that the film brought across. We're looking to take it from the moment the movie ends, and move things forward."

Also slated for spring 2006 release is ***Tron***, which "will have elements of the original movie in it; and Disney of course, wants to push some attention towards their newest version of ***Tron***, which is coming out next year. The comic that we're doing begins six months after the story that takes place in the recent videogame, and continues from there. Assuming this is successful, we'll be going back and bridge the gap between the first movie and the game."

Vado said that his primary focus will be for the Direct Market, at least initially. "Any retailer that sells ***Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*** can attest that there's a chunk of our market that comes from outside of the regular marketplace," Vado said. "I think these titles will appeal to the traditional SLG fan, as well as Disney fans that are looking for something new that's not the usual Disney fare."

In targeting the teen market, Slave Labor and Disney will downplay the Disney link to a degree. "There will be references to Disney on the cover, such as 'Inspired by the classic Disney attraction' on ***Haunted Mansion***. So yeah – what we're all aiming for here is a different take on Disney, so they're going to tread a little more softly than they would on their own material."

Vado is enthusiastic about the opportunities the Disney deal affords him, but he's also aware that the Disney deal means a change for Slave Labor. "As it is, it's a lot for us to take on, as it's a first for us in many ways – it's work for hire, so we're hiring people to do stories, making ourselves responsible for the content, and editing in a more traditional way. Even though I've selected the creative teams based on people who have an emotional involvement in the material, they still need to follow through on the overall original vision for the line, since that was what got us the deal with Disney in the first place. Based on my experiences, Disney is going to be supporting our efforts with these comics a little more aggressively than they would be with other licensees. On the publishing end, at least, they seem to really want to see if their brands can extend beyond the traditional kid-based entertainment that they're known for, and in a way that doesn't utilize their more iconic characters – which is a pretty big thing to be a part of."

Part of Vado's anxiety also comes from the fact that, while the four initial series are in various stages of production, he is aware that their success could lead to even more opportunities down the road. "Right now, our initial releases will be spread out over a six-month period, and from there, once we can gauge the success/failure of those four, we have other titles with other creators that we're already developing," Vado said. "If we do expand with more Disney-based titles, those will move a little faster in terms of the agreement, from idea to comic than these ones. So, while we've definitely got all we're willing to take on right now, there's definitely room for expansion in the future."

Crisis Brings Even More Changes

Last week, ***CSN*** told readers about DC's revelation that every title in the DCU would skip ahead one year in the March 2006 storylines. As it turns out, though, that's not the only big shakeup coming to DC in conjunction with Crisis. DC Executive Editor *Dan DiDio* has revealed that, following the seven-issue ***Infinite Crisis*** miniseries, DC editorial will see a significant change as well.

DiDio offered some behind-the-scenes info regarding both changes. "We had an editorial meeting to talk through ***Crisis***—how we're going to handle it, how we're going to coordinate it, and how we're going to follow it," DiDio said. "When the suggestion was made by editorial of maybe doing a leap ahead in storylines, it gave us an interesting hook that would really play nicely, because it would allow you to get back into your characters in their own individual stories again, without being made to feel that they're all coming from the same place and the same time. With everything running as tightly as it will be in ***Crisis***, the last thing we wanted to do was follow it by having all the series coming from the same exact place and the same exact time, because that can get a little redundant. This allows for every series to have its own individual identity again, and allows us to get the balls back up in the air as quickly as possible and get right back into the heart of what makes each character special."

This relatively abrupt change in all the DCU ongoing series also offers a perfect place for editorial swaps for the series as well, DiDio explained. "One of the things I really like to do, whether it's within the DC Universe and its stories, or behind the scenes somewhat, is to shake things up and keep it fresh. One of the best things I have here is an incredibly talented editorial staff. They've been here for a while, and bring a lot of consistency in work and continuity in characters. When you've got good people working for you, the last thing you want to do is loose them.

"So what I decided to do is to find a way to keep everybody excited about what we're doing is to take all the books, opt them into a

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big blender, and hitting spin. As a result, we're going to be trying out different people with different series.

"As a result, we've got every editor giving up some books that they've nurtured for years, as well as developing some new projects. In doing that, they'll hopefully bring their own level of energy and excitement to the new material. The idea was extremely well-received by all the editors here, and it's an exciting time for everybody. It's got everybody thinking about something new, and getting a chance to work on characters that they haven't had a chance to do before."

DiDio revealed just a few of the editorial changes that will go into place next spring. Current ***Batman*** Group Editor *Bob Schreck* will move from the Bat-office to overseeing the ***All Star*** line. "Bob will be there to help solidify that line, and build those projects, as well as take on some new, high-end special projects," DiDio said. *Peter Tomasi* will replace him as editor on ***Batman*** and ***Detective Comics***, while the ***Superman*** titles will move from *Eddie Berganza* to current Bat-editor *Matt Idelson*. Berganza will receive the ***JLA*** in addition to his other titles.

"With every editor, from *Mike Carlin* and *Joey Cavalieri* to *Steve Wacker* and *Joan Hilty*, we've spun out and separated bits and pieces of the DC Universe, so that everyone gets to try something new, while at the same time, while every single editor is involved in the creation of new series and new directions for characters across the board as we see them coming out of ***Crisis.***"

DiDio acknowledged that some titles will reflect the editorial change more so than others. "You could look at the changes say, from *Denny [O'Neil]* to *Bob [Schreck]* on ***Batman***, or how the Superman books have and will change from *Mike [Carlin]* to Eddie, and now to Matt," DiDio said. "Some of the changes as a result of the moves might be incremental, but what it does do is that it allows every editor to look at the characters and find their own approach for the stories. It could be that Pete's ideas about telling a Joker story in ***Batman*** aren't quit the same as what Bob's were. That will give things a level or freshness and newness, and allows the entire DCU to be seen through fresh sets of eyes.

"Likewise, every editor has certain creators they are comfortable with, and every editor is always looking to bring new talent on board. All in all, the changes in editors allow us to walk in fresh again, with open eyes, and get the best out of our talent, and our characters, which, in the end, is something that benefits the readers."

And as you might suspect, these are just the first of *many* surprising revelations—both in terms of content and creators—forthcoming over the next nine months in relation to ***Infinite Crisis***...

Dark Horse Gets Romantic

Dark Horse, one of the first American publishers to venture into the manga market and a pioneer in the modern push to take comics beyond superheroes, is teaming with an ultra-successful paperback publisher for a new venture that combines both interests.

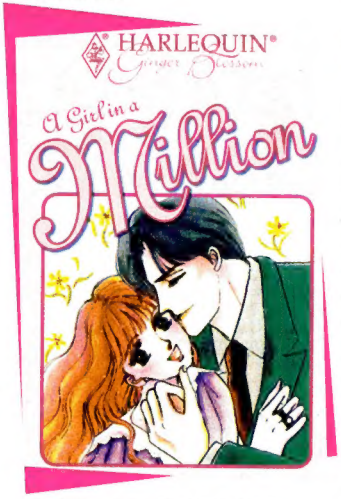
Later this year, Dark Horse will join with Harlequin Enterprises, the producers of some of the best-selling romance series in popular fiction, to bring six Harlequin titles to American readers in manga adaptations. The books, which will be offered under the ***Harlequin Ginger Blossom*** banner, will be divided into two color-coded lines—a "pink" line, which is aimed at younger readers, and a "violet" line, intended for more sophisticated readers. The agreement calls for three books in each line, with a title from each line arriving approximately every three months.

"We're thrilled to be partnered with Harlequin—a publisher long renowned for bringing enriching reading experiences to millions of people," *Anita Nelson*, Vice President Sales and Marketing for Dark Horse, said. "***Harlequin Ginger Blossom*** is a romantic step above much of the cookie-cutter manga hitting the shelves today. As a pioneer in introducing manga to North America, Dark Horse is committed to bringing truly unique editorial such as this to a new audience."

"We are delighted to be working with a company of Dark Horse's creativity on this new venture," *Donna Hayes*, Publisher and CEO of Harlequin, said. "Harlequin romances are timeless, and this partnership allows us to bring our compelling editorial to a younger readership in a format that they find relevant."

"Harlequin's strength is creating stories that women of all ages find engaging," said *Pam Laycock*, Executive Vice President, New Business Development and Strategy for Harlequin, added. "Dark Horse recognizes that there is vast potential for the growth of manga in North America. At the same time, there is currently no manga for young women that captures the richness of the Harlequin experience. We believe this partnership leverages both these opportunities."

Harlequin is no stranger to manga; since 1988, the company has licensed more than 250 of its romance titles to Japanese publisher Ohzora, which has produced manga based on those novels.



Dark Horse's first ***Harlequin Ginger Blossom*** Titles, ***A Girl in a Million*** (written by *Betty Neels* with art by *Kako Itoh*) and ***Response*** (written by *Penny Jordan* with art by *Takako Hashimoto*) are scheduled for December release.

Dynamite Opens Borderline

Most comics readers became familiar with *Eduardo Risso* through his compelling visuals for Vertigo's ***100 Bullets***, but the artist first made a name for himself with an earlier series that has never seen print in the US... until now. That's a situation that's about to change, though, thanks to Dynamite Entertainment.

Borderline, described by Harvey and Eisner Award-winning creator Risso as a science fiction post-apocalyptic story, that both openly shows the miseries and kindness of humankind, is coming to US comic shops later this summer.. "This work is very strong and very personal," Risso explained. "I am very happy to be working with Dynamite to offer this series in the United States and the rest of the world!"

Originally published in Italy, ***Borderline*** is a six-hundred-page epic created by Risso and writer *Carlos Trillo*, with whom the artist has previously worked on a slate of other projects. The initial 160 pages collection, which will retail for $19.99, is the first in projected four-volume series that will collect the entire series.

"We're very happy to be a part of this, and to be working with the creative team on this project," Dynamite Spokesperson *J. Allen* said. "Eduardo is such a talented creator, and this work is so powerful, that it's going to blow the fans away! This great series has never been published in North America, and Dynamite is proud to bring this explosive series to a new audience for the first time."

Borderline Volume One TP is scheduled for August release; Dynamite has tentative plans to offer the series in hardcover at a later date.

Fallen Angel Arises at IDW

Last week, ***CSN*** told you about *Peter David's* plans to take his cancelled DC series ***Fallen Angel*** to IDW later this year; now editor-in-chief *Chris Ryall* and *Peter David* have offered more information regarding their plans for the series.

"Peter and I had been talking about various other projects prior to ***Fallen Angel's*** cancellation," Ryall told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady*. "I've been a fan of his work for years, and was determined to get him on an IDW book one way or another. At this point, ***Fallen Angel's*** status at DC was... shall we say... *undetermined*, so he asked if it was anything we'd consider taking on if DC cancelled it.

"I loved the book, and more than that, I loved Peter's commitment to it and his efforts to just about anything to keep it going when it probably would have been easier, and surely less time-consuming and probably more lucrative, to let it go and jump on another high-profile book instead."

Moving the series was an option due to the fact that ***Fallen Angel***, despite being published by DC and a part of the DC line of comics during its life (though not exactly placed within the DC Universe), was owned by David and series artist *David Lopez*. As result, the property is transportable—though that's not necessarily an easy process.

"Whenever something of this nature is being done, there are always complications," David said. "Even when everyone is working toward the same goal, there's simply a lot of legal aspects that have to be ironed out. Right now, everyone is in accord about ***Fallen Angel*** going to IDW. But legal agreements are what you write when everyone is on the same page in anticipation of future situations where they might not be. So that's where we are right now—putting the finishing touches on the agreements and waiting for the final signatures..."

David is hopeful that the move to a new home might result in a stronger marketing push for the book—and that, in turn, might help it find its as-of-yet-untapped audience. "***Fallen Angel*** was always problematic for DC," David said. "Potential DCU readers figured they could pass on it because it wasn't part of the DCU, and potential Vertigo readers—unaware that the content might appeal to them—skipped it because they just figured it was part of the DCU. Readers of IDW comics won't have any preconceptions, one hopes. Also, as soon as IDW announced the ***Spike*** one-shot, I was deluged with e-mail from ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer*** fans who said, in essence, 'I've never read any of your comics, but I'll sure be there for this!' If even a percentage of those folks then give ***Fallen Angel*** a try, we'll be in good shape."

Why IDW? According to David, it was a combination of two things: IDW was the first to call, and he liked the publisher's business model. "Their books cost a little more, but it translates to absolute top quality in terms of the look of the product," David said. "Also, they have a very aggressive trade collection policy. Me, I'm hoping that regular readers will find the monthlies compelling enough that they won't want to wait."

Ryall sees the new series as fitting in perfectly with IDW's lineup. "The book is moody and creepy and funny and all of these things that I look for in books. And despite the way the book's been regarded in the past, it's *not* a superhero title—a fact that Peter will play up with a slightly darker tone in this new run. The art style will certainly be a bit different than what people have seen on ***Fallen Angel*** before, but it'll be perfectly in keeping with the tone of the book." That change in art styles results from the departure of series artist David Lopez, who has opted to pursue other opportunities (but may provide the covers for the IDW series); the name of the artist for the IDW series has not been announced as of press time..

David intends to use the change of publishers as a stepping-stone for a major publicity push for the series—and as a former member of Marvel's sales and marketing team, David has some ideas regarding that. "Ultimately, nothing works like word of mouth," David said. "I feel my major job right now is two-fold. First, I need to convince retailers to put the books out on their stands. One of our greatest problems was that a number of stores weren't ordering it at all, so we had zero chance of picking up casual browsers who might have heard about the book. Second, we need to convince the current fans of the book to (a) stick with us and (b) let as many people as possible know about the series. We need the Angel Brigade out in force to spread the word. Plus I will do personally whatever I can to make the book a viable property for IDW."

David is already working on the first IDW issue, tentatively slated for December release; he intends to kick off the run with a story arc revealing the true origin of Lee, the enigmatic "Fallen Angel" of Bete Noire. "The series needs a fresh start," David said. "There is no more accessible way to approach it than to do a storyline that informs new readers of where she came from and answers questions for the long-standing readers.

"The ***Fallen Angel*** fans have been terrific, and I think they're entitled to know who she is and where she comes from. However, I'll

be doing it in the same style as I did other 'origin' stories of such characters as Boxer. That is to say, the main storyline will be set in Bete Noire, but someone who was key in the Angel's origin will be arriving in the city, tying in to flashback sequences that reveal her background. However, there will be some new faces in the city, because time will have passed between the end of ***Fallen Angel #20*** [the last DC issue] and the beginning of the new series."

The only bad news David had regarded collected editions of the DC ***Fallen Angel*** run: currently, there are no plans for DC to offer further trades of the series, and there won't be any IDW trades of those issues in the near future. "DC has exclusive rights, for the time being, to do trade collections of the previous run," David said. "That will be the case for at least another year or so. Of course, if the IDW series is successful, that may well weigh into DC's decision as to whether to collect the previous run of the series."

Far-Reaching Crisis

The Countdown to ***Infinite Crisis*** is underway, and it's spreading far beyond the core miniseries. For the past couple of months, readers have been taken by surprise by some of the books that have featured cover brandings linking them to the "four core"—***Day of Vengeance***, ***The OMAC Project***, ***The Rann/Thanagar War***, and ***Villains United***—but DC is making it easier for readers to keep up with the various storylines by releasing a list of upcoming tie-in titles and release dates.

Day of Vengeance tie-ins
- ***JSA #73*** (released in May; now sold out)
- ***JSA #74*** (released in early June; still available at press-time)
- ***JSA #75*** (July 7th)
- ***Blood of the Demon #6*** (August 3rd)
- ***JSA #76*** (August 3rd)

The OMAC Project tie-ins
- ***Superman #217*** (released in May; now sold out)
- ***Adventures of Superman #641*** (released in mid-June)
- ***Birds of Prey #83*** (released in mid-June)
- ***Superman #219*** ("Sacrifice" Part One - July 7th)
- ***Action Comics #829*** ("Sacrifice" Part Two - July 13th)
- ***Adventures of Superman #642*** ("Sacrifice" Part Three - July 20th)
- ***Wonder Woman #219*** ("Sacrifice" Part Four - July 27th)
- ***Superman #220*** (August 10th)
- ***Adventures of Superman #643*** (August 17th)
- ***Manhunter #13*** (August 17th)
- ***Wonder Woman #221*** (August 31st)

Villains United tie-ins
- ***Nightwing #109*** (released in early June; now sold out)
- ***Breach #7*** (July 13th)
- ***Nightwing #110*** (July 13th)
- ***Nightwing #111*** (August 10th)
- ***The Flash #225*** (August 24th)

Look for further updates, including ***Rann/Thanagar War*** tie-ins, in upcoming *CSN*'s.

Marvel Masterworks Turns Fifty!

Hard to believe, but ***Marvel Masterworks*** is about to reach the big five-oh. Not fifty years, mind you—fifty volumes!

Marvel has revealed that the fiftieth ***Masterworks*** volume, scheduled for September release, will be ***Captain Marvel Volume One***, reprinting ***Marvel Super-Heroes #s 12-13*** and ***Captain Marvel #s 1-9***. This 240-page volume will include material by *Stan Lee, Roy Thomas, Arnold Drake, Gene Colan, & Don Heck.*

Here's what Marvel's solicitation says about the volume: "Branded a traitor by the vicious Colonel Yon-Rogg of the Kree for defending the people of Earth, Captain Mar-Vell assumes the human identity of Walter Lawson and becomes the planet's protector against an awesome array of interstellar baddies! Prepare to batten down the hatches for battles with the massive Sentry #459, the savage Super-Skrull, Prince Namor of Atlantis himself and Quasimodo the Living Computer! While you're at it don't forget to grab some tissues for the heartbroken Medic Una as the good Captain falls for Avenger-to-be Carol Danvers in her first-ever appearance!"

Marvelmasterworks.com has also revealed that ***Marvel Masterworks Volume Fifty-One*** will take readers back to the Golden Age via reprints of ***Golden Age Human Torch #s 2-5a*** (there were actually *two* #5's, now designated at 5a and 5b), featuring material by *Carl Burgos* and *Bill Everett*.

Don't Pass Up Your Oni Opportunity

Looking for a chance to break into comics? Convinced that you have what it takes to be the next great art find? Well, the folks at Oni are ready to give you your chance!

Oni Press is conducting a Talent Search at this year's Comic Con International San Diego—but they're making it possible for you to show what you've got even if you *can't* make it to the con. So what do you have to do? It's simple—and you can get started right now.

First, log and and go to this url: http://www.onipress.com/talentsearch/

Pick a script, start drawing, and follow the instructions, and your work will be evaluated to Oni's editorial staff. And you don't even have to attend the con—you can just mail your pages to

ONI PRESS TALENT SEARCH 2005
1305 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite A
Portland, OR 97214

and make sure they're postmarked by July 31st. Artistic hopefuls must supply photocopies of both pencilled art and inked art for Oni Press to keep as reference (those attending the con should bring the original art as well). Each photocopied page should include the artist's name, phone number, and e-mail address and measure 8.5" x 11". The samples should be submitted in a manila envelope that also includes the artist's name and contact information. Illustrating one of these stories and following the above guidelines guarantees you an appointment time to meet with an Oni editor at Comic-Con during the convention's posted hours.

The four scripts available for artists cover four different genres:
- "Horror" by *Antony Johnston* (***Spooked***, ***NightJar***)
- "Romance" by *Jamie S. Rich* (***Four Letter Worlds***, ***Dark Horse Book of the Dead***)
- "Action" by *B. Clay Moore* (***Battle Hymn***, ***The Expatriate***, ***Hawaiian Dick***)
- "Comedy" by *Chynna Clugston* (***Blue Monday***, ***Strangetown***) and *Ian Shaughnessy* (***Strangetown***).

"We decided to go this route to help people who are interested in working outside of comic's superhero mainstream build an appropriate portfolio," Oni editor-in-chief *James Lucas Jones* said. "Over the years, I can't tell you how many times I've sat down to do a portfolio review at San Diego or another con and just seen page after page of pin-ups. Pin-ups are cool but they do very little to communicate the artist's ability as a storyteller. By giving people a chance to pick up a script from one of five very talented writers, we think we'll make things easier on both the talent trying to convey their skills and the editor trying to evaluate said skills.

"Throwing this gauntlet down means that only the men and women serious enough to pick it up get time with Oni editors. That means that Oni editors spend their time with only the most dedicated illustrators--a situation beneficial to both us and them."

Prospective writers shouldn't feel shunned;, Oni will also be accepting project proposals at the con (but it doesn't look like they're accepting mail-ins on these). Proposals should, according to Oni's guidelines, include all pertinent contact info and include an overview of the project, sample script, and sample sequential art if it's available—however, writers can still submit without art.

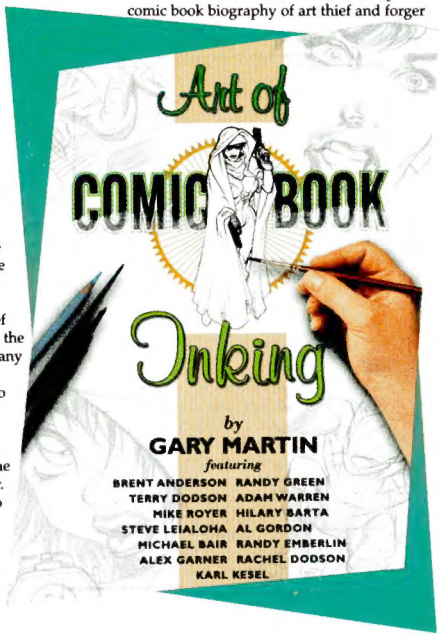
So what are you sitting there for? Start drawin'!

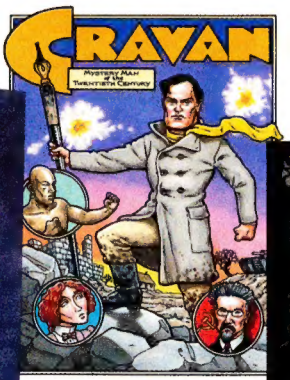
Coming Comics—Dark Horse in September

Gary Martin's informative and entertaining ***Art of Comic Book Inking*** goes into a second edition this fall—but this isn't just a reprinting of the original book. Instead, Dark Horse has combined ***Art of Comic Book Inking Vols 1 & 2*** into one hefty 192-page volume, and they've added three additional blue-line art boards featuring uninked pencil work by a trio of comics' greatest talents: *Jack Kirby, John Buscema,* and *Gil Kane.* Gain insights into the techniques, tools, and approaches of some of the finest delineators in comics today, including *Terry Austin, Mark Farmer, Scott Williams, Alex Garner,* and many more—and then try out these techniques yourself by inking the blue-line pencil pages that are included!

Jeff Smith's implacable li'l hero is translated into a syroco-style statue this fall when Dark Horse unveils their ***Classic Comic Book Character: Bone Statue;*** the statue is packaged with a vintage-style pinback button and a booklet about the character and his creator, limited to 750 pieces.

Cravan, *Mike Richardson & Rick Geary's* comic book biography of art thief and forger





Arthur Cravan, who Dark Horse describes as "the most interesting person you've never heard of," is rescheduled for fall release.

Kurt Busiek, Cary Nord, Dave Stewart, and cover artist *José Ladronn* kick off their adaptation of *Robert E. Howard's* legendary "Tower of the Elephant" in ***Conan #20.*** A bar fight in the City of Thieves yields far more than expected when Conan learns of the fabled and impregnable Tower of the Elephant. Determined to rob it, Conan sets out on a quest that will involve new comrades, sudden death, horrifying creatures, and gruesome unsettling fates for both gods and men.

Marv Wolfman & Gene Colan, the men responsible for the classic ***Tomb of Dracula*** series, revisit the vampiric world with ***The Curse of Dracula,*** an eighty-page graphic novel that offers a new take on the most enduring—and diabolical—character in horror fiction. A mysterious and persuasive figure is moving amongst the circles of San Francisco's political elite. When Jonathan Van Helsing and his team of vampire hunters come to town investigating a string of grisly murders and stumble into a virtual pit of blood-soaked horrors, they know it's only a matter of time before they come face to face with the master of the dark!

In ***Favole: Stone Tears Book One,*** Victoria Francés creates a gothic romantic fantasy reminiscent of *Anne Rice's* ***Vampire Chronicles,*** filled with tales of vampires, magic, and the undying spirit of lovers which reaches across the centuries. This lavishly illustrated volume, the first in an ongoing series, will appeal to fans of lush gothic romantic artists such as *Luis Royo.*

Scott Allie & Todd Herman bring *John Carpenter's* remake of ***The Fog*** to comics with an eighty-eight page tie-in tale that expands on the story of doomed travelers and the supernatural devastation of a small coastal town, in this original graphic novel.

Frank Miller's ***Sin City*** gets the deluxe treatment this fall with the release of ***Frank Miller's Sin City Library 1 HC,*** an 840-page four-volume slipcased set of oversized 9" x 12" books presenting the first four ***Sin City*** stories—***The Hard Goodbye, A Dame to Kill For, The Big Fat Kill,*** and ***That Yellow Bastard***—printed on high-quality paper stock, collecting each original series along with the color series covers. The four hardcover volumes of set I are packaged in a handsomely designed slipcase—a long-awaited addition to the bookshelves of discriminating comics fans.

Let's get small! That's the new motto of secret agent Jack Hightower, who finds himself miniaturized to the size of an action figure in *Will Vinton, Andrew Wiese, & Fabio Laguna's* ***Jack Hightower.***

Christmas isn't all that far away, which is why the Dark Horse folks are already thinking holiday thoughts. Their ***Jingle belle Ornament*** brings *Paul Dini's* delightful character into the third dimension as a piece of polyresin tree decor;

Coming to the aid of embattled shape-changing "biomecs," suave swashbuckler Rocco Vargas finds himself at the center of mayhem on Mars, with the fate of the mecs—and his own freedom—hanging in the balance in *Daniel Torres'* ***Rocco Vargas: Walking With Monsters.***.

Watch me pull an ornament out of my hat! Or, in this case, two ornaments! ***The Rocky & Bullwinkle Ornament Set*** offers two painted polyresin ornaments depicting *Jay Ward's* most famous creations.

You've seen Marv deal out justice in ***Sin City***—well, now you can deal out Marv (and all your other ***Sin City*** faves) with the ***Sin City Playing Cards,*** featuring images by *Frank Miller.*

In the wake of the death of the Emperor and the destruction of the Death Star II, a group of Rebel pilots are looking forward to some well-deserved R & R. Instead, they run into a deadly attack by vengeful Imperials that changes the course of all of their lives. See what happens as Luke Skywalker, Wedge Antilles, and the rest of the Rogues set out on a mission that will define them as heroes not just of the Rebellion, but as heroes for the whole galaxy in ***Star Wars: X-Wing—Rogue Leader,*** a three-issue limited series by *Haden Blackman, Tomas Giorello, & Michael Atiyeh.*

One of the finest runs of Tarzan tales in comic book history is collected in Archives-format hardcover this fall with the release of ***Tarzan: The Joe Kubert Years Volume One.*** This volume, which features meticulous color restoration based on *Tatjana Wood's* original color work for the 1970's DC ***Tarzan*** series, will feature a new introduction by *Joe Kubert* as well as reprintings of ***Tarzan #s 207-214.***

In the eighty-eight page ***You Deserved It,*** *Bob Fingerman* serves up a caustic collection of comical cautionary chronicles. What Fingerman's previous work, ***Beg the Question,*** was to sex and romance, ***You Deserved It*** is to wanton violence and social wrongness.

Dark Horse collected editions for September & October include:

- ***Berserk Volume 9,*** continuing *Kentaro Miura's* story of Griffith, the leader of the elite mercenary Band of the Hawk;
- ***Chosen,*** reprinting the ***Omen***-esque horror series by *Mark Millar & Peter Gross;*
- ***Conan Volume Two: God in the Bowl & Other Stories,*** a trade paperback collection of ***Conan #s 7-13;***
- ***Damn Nation,*** collecting the horror series by *Andrew Cosby & J. Alexander;*
- ***The Goon Fancy Pants Edition HC,*** a signed collection of the original ***Goon #s 1 & 2*** and Dark Horse's ***Goon #s 1, 3, 5, & 9,*** carefully assembled by creator *Eric Powell* to chronicle the life of the Goon in a complete story;
- ***Hellsing: Impure Souls,*** adapted from the anime series;
- ***Little Lulu: Letters to Santa,*** a collection of holiday-related tales by *John Stanley & Irving Tripp;*
- ***Oh My Goddess Volume One 2nd Edition,*** an affordably priced smaller trim-size version of the manga fave by *Kosuke Fujishima,* complete with eight full-color pages;
- ***Samurai: Heaven & Earth,*** a trade paperback edition of the samurai-in-Europe saga by *Ron Marz, Luke Ross, & Jason Keith;* and
- ***Samurai Executioner Volume Eight,*** continuing the ***Lone Wolf & Cub*** prequel by *Kazuo Koike & Goseki Kojima.*

By popular demand, CSN offers a list of first issues, zero issues, and stand-alone single issues making their appearance in July The First Faves choices are listed, followed by the remainder of the month's premiere issuese; each listing carries a Diamond Comic Distributors' code number after the publisher's name for each item. This way, if you're interested in an item that your friendly local comic shop doesn't routinely stock, you can tell them exactly how to locate and order it for you!

First Faves

The best first issues July has to offer!

○**24: MIDNIGHT SUN** IDW MAY052825 $7.49
Oneshot based on the hit Fox series

○**ALL STAR BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER #1** 7/13 DC MAY050190 $2.99
Frank Miller, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams kick off a new ongoing Batman & Robin series that presents iconic adventures of the heroes filled with the adventure and sense of wonder that made Batman a favorite for almost seven decades

○**ARMY OF DARKNESS #1** Dynamite MAY052663 $2.99
Army of Darkness vs. Re-Animator! Ash Vs. West!

○**CAVEWOMAN RELOADED #1** Basement MAY052594 $3.95

○**COMBAT ZONE: TRUE TALES OF GIS IN IRAQ VOL 1** 7/6 Marvel MAY051824 $19.99
Inside look at the 82nd Airborne's struggle to free Iraq from Saddam's control, brought to you by embedded journalist Karl Zinsmeister and comics great Dan Jurgens

○**COURTNEY CRUMRIN TALES #1** 7/20 Oni MAY052896 $5.95
First in a new series of prestige format one-shots focusing on various characters in the Courtney Crumrin world

○**DAREDEVIL VS. PUNISHER #1** 7/6 Marvel MAY051769 $2.99
David Lapham writes, pencils, and inks two of Marvel's biggest icons

○**DEAD BOY DETECTIVES DIGEST** 7/7 Vertigo/DC MAY050292 $9.99
Neil Gaiman's inimitable sleuths star in their own manga-esque digest by Jill Thompson. Charles Rowland and Edwin Paine, the dead British teenagers who are always on the run from Death, travel stateside to solve a missing persons case

○**DEAD EYES OPEN #1** Amaze Ink MAY052435 $2.95
What happens if you come back from the grave... and you haven't changed a bit?

○**DEFENDERS #1** 7/20 Marvel MAY051773 $2.99
The JLA bwah-hah-hah team of Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis, & Kevin Maguire bring their inspired zaniness to the Defenders

○**FANTASTIC FOUR: HOUSE OF M #1** 7/6 Marvel MAY051739 $2.99
The Fantastic Four as you never could have imagined them! The trusted advisor at Magneto's right hand is almost certainly the second most powerful man in the world. But the question is... will second-best be enough for Victor Von Doom?

○**FRESHMEN #1** Image MAY051589 $2.99
When fourteen freshmen get superpowers, they discover that there are some catches to this whole superhero thing! New series by Seth Green, Hugh Sterbakov, & Leonard Kirk

○**G.I. JOE: AMERICA'S ELITE #1** Devil's Due MAY052681 $2.95
Joe Casey, Stefano Caselli & Sunder Raj kick off the new, more real-world Joe series with a bang

○**G.I. SPY: #1** Boom MAY052604 $3.99
WWWII espionage adventure by Andrew Cosby and Matt Haley

○**GIMOLES #1** Alias MAY052414 $0.75
Mike Bullock & Theo Bain present a new series starring mythical creatures imbued with the necessary magics to create each season

○**GROUNDED #1** 7/6 Image MAY051530 $2.95
When all-too-normal Jonathan is sent to a high school for super-powered children, he's forced to abandon his fantasy of developing powers and deal with the reality that he's the only kid without them

○**GUNCANDY #1** 7/13 Image MAY051531 $5.99
Action/suspense from Doug Warner, Chuck Dixon, Brian STelfreeze, Jason Pearson, & Sanford Greene

○**HIP FLASK: MYSTERY CITY** Active Images MAY052371 $4.99
New Hip Flask tale by Richard Starkings & Jose Ladronn

○**HULK: DESTRUCTION #1** 7/27 Marvel MAY051777 $2.99
Peter David presents the definitive origin of the Abomination

○**HUNTER KILLER DOSSIER** Image MAY051590 $2.99
ALL the secrets behind Hunter-Killer's massive, sweeping conspiracy are revealed with illustrations by over a dozen of comics' greatest artists, including Marc Silvestri, Humberto Ramos, Mike Choi, and J.G. Jones

○**IMPERIAL DRAGONS #1** Alias MAY052412 $0.75
In the realm of the Broken Kingdoms, an agent named the Eternal has stolen a sword that is the sacred symbol of the southern emperor's power and authority. But before he can return to the northern kingdom, he finds himself trapped in the town of Qi Akuto by the Imperial Dragons

○**IRON MAN: HOUSE OF M #1** 7/6 Marvel MAY051738 $2.99
Tony Stark is the smartest, most successful Sapien on the planet-the best and brightest of a dying species. Does it bother him that the House of M uses the technology produced by Tony's multi-billion-dollar company to keep Sapiens down?

○**JLA/CYBERFORCE** 7/7 DC MAY050237 $5.99
Joe Kelly. Doug Mahnke. & Norm Rapmund bring together together two of the most powerful teams in comics. When Cyber-Zombies invade Budapest, the JLA and Cyberforce teams arrive to answer the call for help. Now these two very different teams must work together toward a common goal: preventing the now-evil Ripclaw and his Cyber-Zombies from obtaining Godtech - an organic material that could make the Cyberforce immortal or even give life to the dead!

○**JSA CLASSIFIED #1** 7/20 DC MAY050239 $2.50
Geoff Johns, Amanda Conner, & Jimmy Palmiotti kick off this new series with a story arc that spotlights everyone's favorite female juggernaut: Power Girl

○**THE KING GN** Top Shelf MAY053049 $19.95
Rich Koslowski's an offbeat tale of one very enigmatic Elvis impersonator that's taking the Vegas strip, and the world, by storm... but is he too good to be an impersonator?

○**MICKEY MOUSE MEETS BLOTMAN** 7/20 Gemstone MAY052776 $5.99
Features Mickey Mouse and a heroic version of the Phantom Blot

○**MITH VOL 1: OPERATION SMOKING JAGUAR GN** Image MAY051602 $9.99
What if magic was real? And what if the CIA were the only ones who knew about it? In M.I.T.H., the Magical Intelligence Tactical Headquarters controls the real secret behind America's military might-magic wands, crystal coffins, and the occasional hundred-eyed invisible giant

○**MUTOPIA X #1** 7/13 Marvel MAY051741 $2.99
Special investigator of human and mutant affairs, Ismael Ortega, teams up with ordinary cop, Lucas Bishop, to make sure terrorists from the Human Resistance Movement don't kill hundreds by sabotaging a glamorous movie premiere

○**NIGHT MARY #1** IDW MAY052804 $3.99
Rick Remender & Kieron Dwyer introeduce Mary Specter, a misunderstood teenage girl trained to be a lucid dreamer

○**OZ/WONDERLAND CHRONICLES PREVIEW** BuyMeToys MAY052622 $2.99
When Alice and Dorothy become college roommates, a truly surreal adventure is bound to ensue...

○**ROBERT JORDAN'S NEW SPRING #1** Red Eagle MAY052918 $3.95
Chuck Dixon & Mike Miller adapt the best-selling prequel to Robert Jordan's acclaimed fantasy series, The Wheel of Time!

○**SERENITY #1** 7/6 Dark Horse MAY050013 $2.99
Joss Whedon pens a three issue miniseries based on the upcoming film sequel to the series Firefly as the crew of Serenity once again find themselves broke and on the wrong side of a number of very large firearms

○**SILENCERS VOL 2 #1** 7/20 Image MAY051538 $2.95
This gritty crime saga set in a superhero universe, formerly published by Moonstone, moves to Image

○**SILENT DRAGON #1** 7/27 WildStorm/DC MAY050281 $2.99
Andy Diggle, Leinil Yu, & Gerry Alanguilan present a story of love, betrayal, honor and war set against the backdrop of a not-so-distant future Tokyo

○**SOULFIRE: DYING OF THE LIGHT** Aspen MAY052516 $2.50
Michael Turner and scribe J.T. Krul kick off the next exciting story in the Soulfire mythos

○**SURROGATES #1** Top Shelf MAY053045 $2.95
In 2054, life has been reduced to a data feed. The fusing of virtual reality and cybernetics has ushered in the era of a new technology that lets users experience the world without ever leaving their homes. It's a perfect world, but as quickly as this technology changed society, forces are building to send this utopia spiraling into the past

○**TICK: DAYS OF DRAMA #1** NEC MAY052888 $4.95
The Tick and Arthur return to The City, only to find that all the local superheroes are gone!

○**W.I.T.C.H. VOL 1** 7/6 Hyperion MAY052797 $4.99
First two W.I.T.C.H. stories are shown in their original comic format

WAHOO MORRIS VOL 2 #1 Too Hip Gotta Go MAY053044 $2.75

Craig A. Taillefer's popular Modern Tales web comic returns to its original home in comics with the story of rock & roll and magic

WEAPON X: DAYS OF FUTURE NOW #1 7/13 Marvel MAY051803 $2.99

Weapon X is back courtesy of Frank Tieri & Bart Sears

WILDGUARD: FOOL'S GOLD #1 7/6 Image MAY051539 $3.50

Superstar and WildGuard team leader, Four, takes her team to fashion charity show to lend their star power to a worthy cause: keeping super powered youth on the straight and narrow. But where WildGuard goes, adventure follows as attention to super youth can't come soon enough

Fantastic Firsts

Other July first issues

21ST CENTURIONS #1 7/20 Centurion MAY052367 $3.95

First issue of this new color series mixing naive teen heroes with an enigmatic mentor who has questionable motives

ALCHEMISTS' EASEL Active Images MAY052370 $17.99

ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER LEE SIGNED #1 DF MAY052722 $29.99

ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER MILLER SIGNED #1 DF MAY052723 $69.99

ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER TEAM SIGNED #1 DF MAY052724 $149.99

ANGEL FIRE 7/13 Shattered APR053074 $17.95

Part Faustian fable, part Gothic horror story, courtesy of Chris Blythe & Steve Parkhouse

ARMORQUEST #1 Alias MAY052421 $2.99

The story of a young boy named Timothy who finds himself on a quest to join the ranks of the Emperor's Knights of the Way with nothing but a sword, a pair of allies, and a hope to one day return home to save his people from the evil Dragon Prince.

ARMY OF DARKNESS #0 Dynamite MAY052664 $9.99

ARMY OF DARKNESS BOOMSTICK FOIL ED #1 Dynamite MAY052667 $12.00

ARMY OF DARKNESS SIGNED #1 Dynamite MAY052666 $19.99

ART OF JOSH HOWARD VOL 1 Viper MAY053065 $11.95

ARTURO BASTARD #1 AntiMatter MAY052480 $2.49

ARTXILLA TASTY TREATS 2005 7/27 Image MAY051526 $6.99

Featuring material by Ed McGuinness, Keron Grant, Sanford Greene, & LeSean Thomas

BANANA SUNDAYS #1 7/13 Oni MAY052894 $2.99

BARON THE CAT RETURNS 7/27 Viz MAY053131 $9.99

BIZENGHAST VOL 1 TokyoPop MAY052947 $9.99

BLAME VOL 1 TokyoPop MAY052951 $9.99

BODY BAGS: FATHER'S DAY #1 7/13 Image MAY051527 $5.99

Jason Pearson presents a revamped edition of his Body Bags series

BODY BAGS: FATHER'S DAY SIGNED #1 7/13 Image MAY051528 $19.99

BONEREST #1 7/6 Image MAY051529 $2.95

The surreal story of the mouthless man known as Adam Bone

BUMPERBOY LOSES HIS MARBLES 7/6 Adhouse MAY052383 $7.95

BURNING SANDWICHES Robert Sato MAY052920 $7.95

CAST #1 Nautilus MAY052878 $2.99

CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON VOL 1: REVISED & EXPANDED ED HK MAY052796 $17.95

CSI: NEW YORK BLOODY MURDER #1 IDW MAY052805 $3.99

DALLAS MCCOY: STAR STRUCK #1 Rorschach MAY052921 $2.99

DEAD SAMURAI iBooks MAY052799 $6.99

EIKEN VOL 1 7/13 AnimeWorks MAY052459 $9.99

EL ARSENAL #1 Arcana MAY052494 $2.95

FAT BOY & HARVEY #1 Axiom MAY052592 $2.99

Clayton Harvey is a struggling artist living in Los Angeles. Fat Boy is his kung fu-loving cousin from Hong Kong. Together they have crazy adventures with Hollywood celebrities and rock stars

FEED AMERICA'S CHILDREN FEATURING MAJOR IMPACT #1 WildCard MAY053162 $4.99

FROM HEAVEN TO HELL #1 Dead Dog MAY052673 $4.95

GALAXY ANGEL PARTY VOL 1 Broccoli APR052737 $9.99

GATESVILLE COMPANY #1 Speakeasy MAY052937 $2.99

GIANT SIZE SPIDER-WOMAN #1 7/27 Marvel MAY051776 $4.99

Reprinting early Spider-Woman tales

GRENUORD #1 Fantagraphics MAY052743 $4.95

GUNCANDY SIGNED #1 7/13 Image MAY051532 $19.99

GURU GURU PON CHAN VOL 1 Del Rey MAY052676 $10.95

HANIDORI GIRL VOL 1 Dr. Masters MAY052712 $9.95

HIT THE BEACH 2005 Radio MAY052912 $4.99

HONEY MUSTARD VOL 1 TokyoPop MAY052953 $9.99

HORROR SHOW #1 Dead Dog MAY052671 $4.95

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE FILM COMICS VOL 1 7/20 Viz MAY053133 $9.99

INTERNAL FURY #1 Fierce MAY052773 $2.00

Charles Dixon X-introduces a modern day Gladiator born to this Earth for one sole purpose: to become a neutral force between good and evil

JSA CLASSIFIED #1 TEAM SIGNED DF MAY052727 $69.99

KARMA INCORPORATED #1 Viper MAY053064 $2.95

LADY DEATH: DEATH GODDESS Avatar MAY052543 $2.50

LEGENDS FROM DARKWOOD SUMMER FUN SPECIAL Antarctic MAY052465 $2.99

LUFTWAFFE 1946 SOURCEBOOK VOL 1 Antarctic MAY052467 $5.95

MARVEL MILESTONES: DR STRANGE-SILVER SURFER-SUB-MARINER-HULK #1 7/20 Marvel MAY051774 $3.99

MARVEL TALES FLIPBOOK #1 7/20 Marvel APR051922 $3.99

MEDIEVAL LADY DEATH/BELLADONNA #1 Avatar MAY052552 $3.99

MERU PURI VOL 1 7/6 Viz JUN053290 $8.99

MIDDLEMAN #1 Viper MAY053063 $2.95

MIDORI'S DAYS VOL 1 7/13 Viz MAY053095 $9.99

MINESHAFT #1 Fantagraphics MAY052753 $5.00

MINKENSTEIN MU MAY052872 $2.95

MONKEY IN A WAGON VS LEMUR ON A BIG WHEEL #1 Alias MAY052419 $2.99

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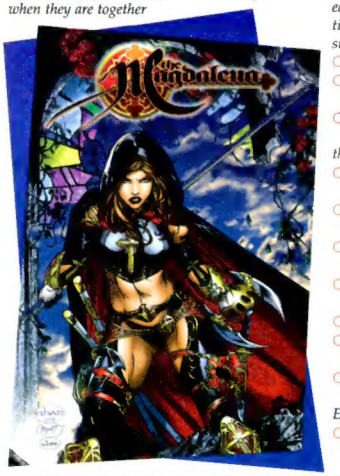

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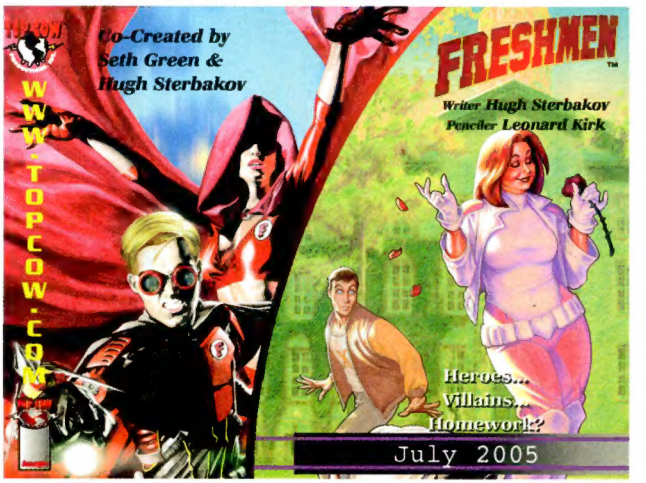

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